

Holiday Wishes...

At a time more than any other, when we give thanks for our abundance and share it with others, I would like to express my gratitude to all the men and women who are the Rochester Fire Department. Without your contributions we would not be the Department we are. Because of you the people in our community are safe, protected and well served. I am continuously impressed by your willingness to reach out to those who lack the common comforts we take for granted and to comfort those who have had the necessities of life taken from them.

To all of you, your families and loved ones, I wish you the best now and in the new year.

Best Regards,

Lloyd A. Madison

Capt. McCullough...C'mon Down!

On Oct. 24, Capt. Christian McCullough (E16/G4) was a contestant, and a very successful one, on *The Price Is Right*. Not only was he selected to "C'mon Down," but also made it up on stage with Bob Barker.

Each August (the show was taped Aug. 18th) the McCullough's vacation in Las Vegas. This year they made a side trip to Los Angeles after Chris's wife, Tammy, was able to get tickets for the show, of which both are big fans. They knew to get to the studio early (they arrived at 3:45 a.m.! for the 2:30 p.m. taping). Even though they had tickets, CBS over books for the show to insure a sold out crowd for the tapings. Chris had roughly 10 seconds to give his name

Firefighters Bring Glad Tidings and Cheer!

Two RFD traditions, one new & one old. In the photo to the right, on Dec. 17, Q/M9 (G3) firefighters (pictured is F.F. Mike Vinci) & Santa (Capt. Dan Cole, ret.) delivered presents to kids in the children's ward of Rochester General Hospital. The stuffed animals were from the Gary The Happy Pirate Toy Fund. Suzanne Warren, Budget Analyst for the RFD, sits on the toy fund's board of directors. And what would Christmas be without firefighters ringing bells to raise money for the Salvation



Army? They were out in force at the Four Corners downtown on Thursday, December 18, (pictured, left to right, are: Firefighters Rich Born, (E17/G1), Jim Hartman, (E17/G1) and Mike Meeks (Q6/G1).



Yes, that's Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton with our very own Lt. Scott Owen. Scott met Sen. Clinton while he was in Washington representing the RFD at the Burn Survivor Camp. For more on the camp and Scott's experience, please go to page 7.

Health & Safety

by BC Chuck Stadler

One of the main responsibilities of the Health & Safety Office is to research, interpret and enforce many of the regulations and standards that apply to the fire service today. Some of the mandated OSHA regulations cover areas such as respiratory protection, hazard communication, blood borne pathogens, asbestos exposure, hearing conservation and hazardous materials. Standards, such as those issued by the NFPA cover topics such as firefighter accountability, RIT/FAST teams and medical examinations.

TB testing, SCBA FIT testing, TOG inspections, OSHA reporting, fire house inspections, RTK/BBP training are all programs that stem from these mandates. SOUNDS EXCITING, HUH? NOT REALLY!

What I really want to tell you about are the things that you need to know that will keep you and the people you work with safe. THE BASICS. Basic fireground operations and procedures are what we all need to be proficient in to protect ourselves in the most dangerous environment we find ourselves in - structure fires!

Know Your SCBA - How does it work? What are the limitations of it? What are the emergency procedures of it?

Building Construction - How is fire spread and collapse potential affected by the various types of building construction?

Hose Line Selection - Do we have the right line for the right job?

Laddering - Are we selecting and placing the right size ladders in the right places?

Ventilation - Is it being addressed and in the right fashion?

RIT Teams - Are we prepared to help a firefighter in need or are we window dressing out on the sidewalk? Be proactive!

Size-Up - Have a plan, know what you are doing and why; don't just blindly attack a fire.

By now I'm sure all of you know what I'm getting at. Make sure you continue to study, train and work on the very skills that help us do our job as proficiently as we can - **THE BASICS**.

Company officers keep interested in providing the basics to everyone working for you. It's the best preventive safety program going! Stay safe; be careful.

City School Benefits from Sunflowers

The two boys pictured to the right are No. 9 School students, who helped with the sunflower garden. Each summer for the past seven years, Tom Haley, of the Fire Chief's Office, has planted a sunflower garden with the help of students from the school, which is located on N. Clinton Ave. In autumn the sunflowers are harvested and the money raised from the sale of the sunflower heads, which are sold as bird and plant seed to City employees and members of Tom's church (St. Mary's Catholic Church), is given to the school so that the children can go on field trips. The project is also a fun way for the students to learn about science, gardening and community involvement. This year a total of \$791 was raised. Congratulations to all involved, especially Tom, who puts a lot of effort into getting the garden started and maintaining it through the summer months.



Runners: On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

by Capt. Dan McBride, PIO



Pictured above is the local contingent of runners, from l to r: F.F. Anthony Nunez, Major Steve White (NYS Police), RPD Inv. Bill Lawler, Police Chief Bob Duffy, Lt. Ted Kuppinger, Ian McBride, Capt. Dan McBride, RPD Officer Ron Slapelis and Molly McBride.

For the third year Rochester firefighters took to the streets of New York to run the New York City Marathon. "The Apple Corp," as we were called by our sponsors the New York Apple Association, consisted of three Rochester firefighters, three Rochester police officers and a New York State Trooper. Joining us for their first marathon were Lt. Ted Kuppinger (Flt/G4), F.F. Anthony Nunez (QM8/G2) and

Police Chief Bob Duffy. Once again we lined up on the Staten Island side of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge with the NYC Police and Fire runners. In front of us were the Kenyans and other international elite marathoners, behind us was an energetic crowd of 34,000 held back by National Guardsmen standing arm in arm. It was a hot day by marathon standards, 74 degrees,

cont'd page 3

Dear RFD...



October 6, 2003

To All the Firefighters in the Rochester Fire Department:

Our son Jerry was dedicated to your profession. We know he was at his best and happiest when he was working with you all.

Many of you told us of his willingness to help and guide others when needed in times of peril. He wanted everyone to succeed and be safe on the job.

Our family will never forget your tribute to Jerry and a most beautiful and stirring send off. We were so touched by your many fond remembrances of Jerry. We spoke with many of you and your personal well wishes certainly helped us through this most difficult time.

We are very proud to have had a son who answered the call to be a Firefighter. God bless each and every one of you!

BE SAFE. BE WELL.

With Love,
Fran and Jerry Morio, Sr.

November 19, 2003

Dear Chief Madison,

On behalf of all the agents assigned to our Rochester office, I would like to express my appreciation for the assistance provided by the members of your department during the Vice President's visit on Nov. 17, 2003.

Please pass on my thanks to everyone who worked this visit. The support we received was exemplary. Hosting a visit of this magnitude takes much planning and coordination between all of the agencies involved. Your department and the professionalism shown by its members went above and beyond all expectations.

The support and friendship of the Rochester Fire Department is greatly appreciated. Thank you again.

Very truly yours,

Michael deStefano
Senior Resident Agent
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
U.S. Secret Service
HSBC Plaza

The Fire Chief received the following letter in regards to the actions of Group 1 uniformed members: Capt. Jim McCabe and F.F. Scott Sardone (Q3), F.F. Todd Zambito (Q5), F.F. Jason Walter (E5), F.F. Steve Paliotti (R11) and F.F. Larry Guyett (Q7). They responded to The Mary Cariola Children's Center on September 30, for a seven-year-old boy in cardiac arrest and unresponsive.

October 1, 2003

Dear Chief Madison,

I am writing on behalf of the administration and staff to thank and acknowledge the firefighters of Quint and Midi 3 that assisted in the care of our student, Mark Miska, on September 30. Mark was in cardiac arrest and unresponsive when the Fire Department arrived. Your firefighters surpassed efficiency and competency in their care of Mark, while simultaneously maintaining an evident level of compassion.

We are all comforted in knowing that everything which could have been done for Mark did occur and we are ever appreciative of Quint and Midi 3's service. Please share with your firefighter our appreciation and gratitude for their skilled and caring presence.

Sincerely,

Lori L. Toscano, CSW
Social Work Supervisor
The Mary Cariola Children's Center

October 6, 2003

Dear Firefighters:

Thank you all so much for responding to my MVA (failed brakes) at 828 Glide Street on Monday, September 29, 2003.

Not only did you all exhibit concern for me, but you were so kind as to replace the little bird that I knocked from its nest onto the hood of my car when I hit the tree.

I've always held high regard for members of your profession.

I love you all.

Sincerely,

Ladawn Williams
Christopher Ct.

December 9, 2003

Dear Chief Madison,

I am writing to let you know how excited School No. 7 is to have a partnership with Quint 2/Engine 10 firefighters. Capt. John Schreiber and F.F. Paul Brock have met with us several times and are ready to begin working with our first graders.

This partnership will be a wonderful opportunity to get important safety information to children and their families as well as build student/community relationships. We look forward to this cooperative effort.

Sincerely,

Rose Marie Urzetta
Resource Teacher

NYC Marathon - cont'd

and we knew hydration would be important to go the distance. As the cannon roared to mark the race start and the crowd surged forward, we were soon overcome by a river of runners. This flow of humanity representing more than 80 countries and people of every age, race and life situation carried us 26.2 difficult miles through the five City boroughs, past 2.5 million cheering spectators and on to the finish line in Central Park. In neighborhood after neighborhood we were welcomed with signs, music, food, water and home-grown enthusiasm. There was an electrifying feeling between runners and spectators alike as we moved toward our goal. As the miles and heat wore us down there was always an encouraging word from a fellow runner, a traffic cop, a kid on the street handing out Gatorade or a brother firefighter in a bucket extended over the roadway. Everyone was so supportive and it really kept you going.

In the sheer exhaustion of the finish line I was overcome with a deep appreciation for all who had helped me reach this goal. I thanked God for my health and family, for the Department I represented and for the opportunity to have such an incredible experience. Thanks are also in order for the NY Apple Assoc. and Local 1071, who helped us get our race entries. A special thanks to my running partners Bill, Ted, Bob, Ron, Steve, Anthony, Molly and Ian.

Always Be Prepared

by DC Jerome Telfair, Fire Marshal

Every day, millions of people wake up, go to work or school, and take part in various social events. But every so often the unexpected happens, i.e., an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill or hazardous materials mishap, an act of terrorism or some other disaster. As a result, routines change drastically and people are suddenly aware of how fragile their lives and routines can be. Each disaster can have profound and lasting effects on people's lives. People may be seriously injured or killed, families destroyed, lives shattered and costly and devastating property damage can occur.

The Station Nightclub fire that occurred the night of February 20, 2003 in West Warwick, RI, was a disaster of historical proportion. People entering any public assembly building need to be prepared in case of an emergency, especially in a nightclub environment where there is low or reduced levels of illumination, extremely loud music, consumption of alcoholic beverages by patrons and its adverse effect on the mind, the body, the reflexes and the reaction time of the individual.

The following items are points you should consider, questions you should ask, and things you should do, in order to maximize your safety in a nightclub or any other public assembly facility.

Should you enter? Take a good look

- Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable?
- Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit?
- Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?

Before you enter: Have a communication plan

- Identify a relative or friend beforehand to contact in case of emergency and you are separated from family or friends.
- Plan a meeting place.
- Pick a meeting place outside to meet family or friends with whom you are attending the function. If there is an emergency, be sure to meet them there.

When you enter: Locate exits immediately

- When you enter a building look for all available exits. Are the exits clearly marked and well lit? Some exits may be in front and some in back of you. Always be prepared to use the exit closest to you (you may not be able to use the main exit).

- Check for clear exit paths
- Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture.
- Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if it is not immediately addressed. Call the Fire Marshal to register a complaint.

Do you feel safe?

- Does the building appear overcrowded?
- Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that make you feel unsafe?
- Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms?
- Ask the management of clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.

During an emergency: React immediately

- If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or any other unusual disturbances, immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.
- Use the closest exit - keep in mind that it may not be the main exit.

Get out, stay out!

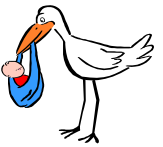
- Once you have escaped, stay out. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. Lt. trained firefighters conduct rescue operations.

Take time to learn about the public assembly buildings you may enter so that you know what to do if the unexpected happens.



The young lady pictured above had a great time sliding down Q9's pole at the station's open house on Oct. 4. Helping her is F.F. Mike Sauer. Special thanks to Q/M9 and everyone else who helped out.

Capt. John Whitehair's wife, Lisa, gave birth to a 6 lb. 10 oz. baby girl, named Abigail Helene, on November 10. Both mother and baby are doing fine.



Lt. Pat Agostinelli's wife, Dianne, gave birth to their first child, a baby girl, on December 2. Talia weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz., and both she and her mom are doing great.

Congratulations to both families!

Chief Honored

On Oct. 22, Chief Madison was presented with a certificate from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), as the result of a letter Lt. Ted Kuppinger sent praising the Chief for his backing of firefighters in the U.S. Reserves. The following is Lt. Kuppinger's letter: Chief Madison has been very supportive of not only my release time for reserve activities, but all of the reservists in the Department. This extends not only to the recent reserve mobilizations but over his entire tenure. He allowed, supported and assisted his staff members in the collection of school supplies that were sent overseas to my unit's location in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan. These supplies aided us in furthering our mission. It was also greatly appreciated by the local citizens. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, the Rochester Fire Department and the City of Rochester. More importantly, he and my supportive coworkers stand as an example of how reservists and their families should be treated on a regular basis.



The Chief receives his award from Mario Fabi and William Wean of the ESGR.

Fire Investigation and Popular Culture

by Capt. Joe Childs, FIN

When approached to write an article on the Fire Investigation Unit, I had to take a moment to figure out what topic to write about. Let me start first by thanking all the members of the Fire Department for their assistance and patience at fire scenes while the fire investigators are working to determine what caused the fire.

Investigating a fire scene is getting more complicated because of TV programs like *CSI* (Crime Scene Investigation), which airs on locally on channel 8. When watching *CSI* everyone knows that the crime will be solved before the program ends and that there will be some new gadget that will place the defendant at the crime scene to get the conviction.

Let's look at some points that can be drawn from *CSI*. First, how factual is it? If you speak with anyone in the field of forensics, yes, some is real, but a lot of it is television taking creative liberties to keep audiences coming back next week. Everyone can remember the famous scene in the movie *Backdraft*, where Kurt Russell defies heat, smoke, and flames to rush past the fire in the apartment and rescue the child that was trapped. He comes out later without a scratch. Even better than that is the chance of some lab technician coming to a fire scene to process DNA samples from a burned out room in a nice white lab coat. Both scenarios are unrealistic!

Samples are collected at a fire scene and are sent to the lab for analysis. The samples are only as good as what we can collect. The quality of our evidence really relies on the firefighters' efforts early into the fire to limit damage both in suppression and overhaul activities. Just like in *CSI* we have to reconstruct the fire room sometimes to either match up what the occupants are telling us or to determine the path the fire traveled. In some cases it can be extremely difficult because of the extensive damage to the contents during the fire.

Perhaps the biggest hurdle to overcome is dealing with juries. When we get to court to prosecute a case many people in the jury box have preconceived notions as to what to expect, both because of TV dramas as well as courtroom TV. Their expectations of the evidence whether based on fact or fiction have to be addressed. One particular trial that has driven us into a new era of processing fire scenes, or any type of scene

for that matter, is the O.J. Simpson trial. That was a classic case of poor preparation by the people processing the murder scene. That case has set a new standard that everyone now has to meet to get a conviction. The defense will be using any tactic to place doubt in a jury's mind to get their client acquitted. In a criminal trial one must be proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If you can create doubt in one juror then the case is lost.

Many times when there isn't a criminal charge in a fire the investigator may still end up in civil court. Insurance companies use the investigator's determination when deciding whether to deny a claim or not. The same rules of evidence apply in this arena as in a criminal case and also those very same TV based jurors may be present. Also, one must consider that in a civil case the deciding factor is the preponderance of evidence, not beyond a reasonable doubt, that is required to win. Again the investigator could end up in court when the insurance company goes after a third party to recover the money they paid out in a claim. This is called subrogation. For example, if an appliance causes a fire, the insurance company may go after the manufacturer of the appliance for the recovery of monies paid out to their insured.

There are many steps a fire investigator must go through to obtain the evidence necessary to successfully prosecute a criminal or present a civil case. The members of this unit go through countless hours of training to be certified. These certifications are needed at a court trial to establish their credibility to offer testimony. The training they go through covers all facets of the fire service and law enforcement. They are certified by New York state as Level 1 and 2 Fire Investigators. These NYS certifications are so well respected that they are valid in Vermont, Pennsylvania and Canada. They have gone through training as Peace Officers, which gives them the powers of arrest. They are also trained in interview and interrogation techniques, explosives, code enforcement, courtroom techniques, evidence collection and fingerprinting..

The old school days of fire investigation are gone thanks to court cases like O.J. Simpson and television shows like *CSI*. Today's investigator has to be highly trained and educated in both fire science and law

enforcement, to stand up to the rigors of courtroom cross examination. They have the difficult task of educating juries and dispelling misconceptions in order to get a successful prosecution.

The Rochester Fire Department Investigation Unit is one of the finest in the country. I am proud to serve with them. Their dedication and professionalism is commendable.

Prof. Development

by DC John Caufield, LDC/G2

Most of you are aware of training available at the New York State Academy of Fire Science at Montour Falls, and at the National Fire Academy, but are you aware of what is actually available?

NYS training is available in a variety of disciplines; the most popular among Rochester firefighters are the following: technical rescue, ice and water rescue, and hazardous materials. These courses are typically a few days in length and are relatively inexpensive. Most upstate training is conducted at Montour Falls (near Watkins Glen). Each firehouse should have a copy of the latest NYS training catalog; extra copies are available in the Deputy's Office. A course catalog, schedule and application forms are available on line at: www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html.

The National Fire Academy (NFA), located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, offers a wide variety of training in several disciplines. Training courses are taught by nationally recognized, subject matter experts, and the training is widely considered to be among the highest quality available. The most popular disciplines among RFD personnel are the following: Hazardous Materials, Incident Command, and the Executive Fire Officer Program. Application for on-campus courses is competitive and may require a prerequisite.

Most on-campus courses are two weeks in duration and require significant work, both in-class, and out of class. An increasingly popular option is self-study classes, which can be completed at your leisure and submitted electronically.

The Executive Fire Officer Program is considered to be the "gold standard" for officers, and is often a prerequisite for most

cont' page 7



The recruit class graduated at Kodak's Theatre On The Ridge on Nov. 20. Pictured are, left to right beginning with the front row: Josh Reed, Todd Smith (N. Greece), Mike Brinkman (Airport), Frank Lombardo (N. Greece), Logan Muster (KFPD), Charles Dodson (KFPD), Rich Brongo, Rich Boskow, Tom Decker, John Wagner; 2nd row: Doug Kress, Sean Finucane, Roland Truelove, Alberto Valasquez, Doug Crowley, Cory Trapiss, Bob Seaman, Joe Hofstetter, Jose Rosario, 3rd row: BC Mike Dupra, Chief Floyd Madison, Mark Hudson, Ricky Lofton, Matt Montesano, Lt. Mike MacKenzie (N. Greece), Malcolm Bundy, F.F. John Grieco, Scott Johnson (Barnard), Adam Zebrak, Lt. Norm Knapp (KFPD), Linh Nguyen, Greg Drew, Capt. David Kaltenbach, Councilman Ben Douglas, Lt. Shaun Murray, Lt. Dan Bender and DC Bill Curran. Congratulations!

RFD Yearbook

by Capt. Dan McBride, PIO

The Rochester Fire Department sure has a lot of history. That discovery is being made by the book committee working on what is turning into a monumental project. Members include Captains Fred Johnstone and Dan McBride, Firefighters Jim McGee, Jerry Sullivan, Brian Anten, Jim Hartman, Ed Ryan, Retirees Bob Cunningham and Dan Coyne and Starr Vogt. We have been working on marketing, researching, funding, and organizing a growing collection of materials from contributors from across

We have an opportunity to publish a terrific book...

western New York. The response from the community has been remarkable with more than 100 people contacting us with contributions for the book and more than 600 book orders and growing. We are finding some very interesting information and pictures from private collections and hearing fascinating stories from family members about their loved ones that go as far back as 1870. We have an opportunity to publish a terrific book that captures the rich history of a proud and progressive Department. We have a great deal of information and need help to get it all organized. If you are interested in doing some research on your fire company or firehouse, your assistance will be appreciated. It is not too late to order a book or contribute materials to be included in it. For more information contact me, Captain Dan McBride, at 428-3687.



Historic Engine 13 during the horse drawn apparatus era. The yearbook the committee is working on will be a blend of historic and contemporary photos and will contain many interesting stories, facts and maybe even a few tall tales.

Everyone's Favorite Superintendent of Apparatus Says...

by Tom Swetz, Apparatus Repair Div.

Another winter is upon us. As with the seasons, our equipment operations also change. Colder weather presents a variety of situations that we, as apparatus operators, need to be concerned with. Some reminders: the tank fill must be opened when idling in pump for extended periods of time. We previously would run with them open all the time. Our operating procedures were changed about two years ago to run with them closed. Another problem in the cold weather is the electrical systems load. When the temperature is low, the load capacity on the batteries is also low. We need to keep a watch on the voltmeter when we idle for long periods of time, especially when all the lights and accessories are on. The Jake Brake (on vehicles equipped with them) should be off to prevent the rear wheels from locking on wet, snow covered or icy roads. They are to be off on all emergency runs, all year long. In closing, I wish everyone a joyful and prosperous New Year.

Burn Survivor Camp

by Lt. Scott Owen, E5/G4

On October 26, I had the privilege of being selected to represent the Rochester Fire Department and the Finger Lakes Regional Burn Association at the National Burn Camp held in Washington, DC. My "camper" was 17-year-old Dahn Bull of Brockport. It was great to see these brave burn survivors having fun and interacting with each other. They never seemed to feel out of place because every kid knew what each other was going through. Dahn was the oldest camper -- the ages of the children ranged from 11 to 17 years old. In all, there were 93 campers and counselors in attendance.



Dahn Bull and Lt. Scott Owen

This week long camp, funded entirely by the IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters), sends children who are burn survivors to DC for the trip of their lifetime. The children are selected from burn survivor camps from all over the U.S. and Canada. The counselors are professional firefighters from the U.S. and Canada as well. During the trip, we toured the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Washington Monument, the U.S. Capital, The White House, the war memorials, the National Archives, Mt. Vernon and numerous other museums and sites. I would have to say that the most humble moment of the trip was participating in the laying of the IAFF wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Every day we were treated to picnics given by several IAFF locals from the area at their respective firehouses. We were given special treatment and "felt like celebrities" the whole week. I even had the chance to meet and share stories with several firefighters and officers who had worked with our own Fire Chief Madison! Dahn and I met with Senator Clinton several

minutes and had pictures taken with her by her personal photographer. Senator Clinton is a big supporter of NYS professional firefighters and the IAFF.

I encourage firefighters and officers to get involved with the Finger Lakes Regional Burn Assoc. These children look up to us and need the strength and courage that only firefighters can provide to help them recover from their injuries.

Bits & Pieces

...Steve Hayes, the Senior Fire Safety Officer of Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service in England, visited the Rochester Fire Department on November 18 and 19. He was in town as part of a project to study the FRY program and other intervention programs run by the City to correct anti-social and criminal behavior of young people. He spent time with fire investigators and members of CREU and Quint/Midi 5...Lt. Ted Kuppinger and Firefighter Anthony Nunez were recognized by the Kiwanis at their annual awards dinner, which was held on November 21 at the Party House. Both were recognized for their service overseas in the military reserves, as well as their service to the community as Rochester firefighters. Chief Madison, Police Chief Bob Duffy and Monroe County Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn were also recognized for their support of their employees who serve in the U.S. Reserves. A special thanks to Richard Gross, the coordinator, and the other organizers for all they did....While we're on the subject of the military, we'd like to send a big congratulations to Capt. Ken Gippe (Fltg./G2) and F.F. Bill Burley (Q8/G1). Earlier this fall Ken received a much deserved promotion to the rank of Fire Chief in the Air Force Reserve and Bill was promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant....Author Kathryn Shay has penned another novel titled "After The Fire." This particular book is based on her research with the RFD and in fact there is a character named after F.F. Casey Brennan. The book is available at local bookstores....Headquarters is organizing a holiday party for Saturday, Dec. 27, at the Wishing Well, 1190 Chili Ave. The cost is \$30 per person and that includes open bar before and after dinner and a buffet dinner. For more info., or to buy tickets, please contact E17 and R11/Group 2 or 4, or the Fire Investigation Unit.

Prof. Development - cont'd

Fire Chief's positions. The EFOP is a four-year program, with participants taking one, two-week course, per year, for four successive years; each course requires completion of an extensive research paper. Entry into this program is highly competitive and is primarily granted to chief officers, but company-level officers may be admitted based on several factors. Additional information on the National Fire Academy, including the Executive Fire Officer Program can be found on the United States Fire Administration Website at: www.usfa.fema.gov and click on the National Fire Academy link.

A professional development opportunity that is widely overlooked is the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). EMI is located on the campus of the National Fire Academy, but is a separate branch of FEMA. EMI teaches classes primarily related to emergency preparedness, prevention and mitigation efforts. Various disciplines focus on general emergency preparedness, including exercise design (tabletop style exercises), and mitigation of natural disasters. On-campus courses are typically one week in duration; student make-up is usually from a non-fire service background. EMI offers an extensive independent study course list in all disciplines. Additional information on the Emergency Management Institute is available as a link from the FEMA website at www.fema.gov click on the link for "Education and Training."



A Holiday Classic...the School of the Holy Childhood Christmas Party, on December 19.

Picture Perfect

We can't think of a better way to close out this edition and the year, than with pictures of firefighters' children. We all love to see your kids at the various RFD events that take place throughout the year. Maybe one day they'll be members of this Department, too.

Pictured are, clockwise beginning with the photo at the top right: Lt. Jerry Randise's son, Nicholas, poses with his dad's hat prior to Jerry's promotion to lieutenant; Lt. Mark Kolmer with his daughter, Gabrielle, after he was sworn-in as a lieutenant; F.F. John Grieco with his son, John, they were part of the Quint 6 contingent on hand to see Jerry Randise promoted; Lt. Ted Kuppinger with his son, Ian, up in the Chief's Office for a visit;

Lt. Dan Pignato with his two boys, Nick and Dan, who look like veteran firefighters with the RFD shirts they're wearing; Lt. Scott Joerger's son, Tommy, gets a free ride on dad's shoulders during the St. Patrick's Day Parade last March; and three kids who helped us out a lot when they came to work with their dads. Seated are Connor and Shea Teresi with dad,



Lt. Tom Teresi, and Emily McClary with her father, Battalion Chief Steve McClary. Bring Your Children To Work Day was one day before the RFD Awards Dinner and they helped by putting together the programs for us.

Happy Holidays to all!

**Love, Peace
and Joy...**

